ECLEG SEP25'13 PM 3:36

ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

92 Franklin Street - 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

MINUTES

Citizens' Budget Review Commission meeting
Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at 3 p.m.

The meeting began at 3:14 p.m.

PRESENT:
Edward Kumrow
Joseph Winter
Michael Otto
Scott Bylewski
Michael McFarlane
Thomas Earl Webb
Laythanette Shine
Erie County Attorney Jeremy Toth
Erie County Deputy Director of Budget and Management Timothy Callan

ABSENT:
Erie County Comptroller Stefan Mychajliw
Willie Price
Gregory Olma

I. Welcome by Chair Betty Jean Grant
Chair Betty Jean Grant gave a welcome to the members.

II. Member Introductions
Members went around the room to give introductions.

III. Discussion of elections of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary
The elections of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary will be held at the next meeting. Those interested should prepare a 1-2 minute presentation to state why he or she would like the position. There will then be a vote to elect those leadership positions and the Chair will then take over running the meeting.

IV. Presentation by Dr. Timothy Callan, Deputy Budget Director
Dr. Callan gave a presentation regarding the Erie County budget. The presentation can be viewed here. Erie County Budget books can be viewed here.

Questions/Discussion:

Betty Jean Grant: When Sheriff helicopter assists other counties, are we reimbursed?
Dr. Callan: No, but the County Executive can't control the Sheriff's budget according to the County Charter. According to Article 25, Section 2507(a), if one or more of independently-elected officials becomes aware of a deficit, he or she shall notify Legislature so immediate action can be taken.

Michael McFarlane: Does Sheriff's budget compound every year if he goes over it?
Dr. Callan: Sheriff's budget increases every year, but he still goes over budget by millions of dollars. Jail management is our biggest out of control problem in county government.

Scott Bylewski: Perhaps the Commission can amend local law to require the budget monitoring reports monthly.

Michael McFarlane: How much of $360 million from state and federal governments are for mandated expenses?
Dr. Callan: Most of it. Some programs are not mandated, but the county pays for it and is reimbursed by state and federal funds.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 26, 2013, at 3 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.